

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 02411 031357Z

42

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 L-03 SP-02 MMO-01 /026 W

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R 030900Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6908

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FOR CU/NEA NEWBERRY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, AF

SUBJ: IV GRANTS FY '76

1. SUMMARY: AFTER PLACING TWO OUT OF FIVE GRANTS FOR FY 76, WE HAVE REACHED POINT WHERE GOA SEEMS UNWILLING APPROVE FURTHER IV GRANTS IN THIS FY. POST PROPOSES SHIFT REMAINING IV ALLOCATION TO OTHER CU PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) POSITION NOW (MARCH 31) SEEMS THAT THEY WILL NOT CONSIDER ANY FURTHER CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL VISTOR PROGRAM (IVP) GRANTS THIS YEAR. AFTER AGREEING TO TWO OUT OF FIVE GRANTS. GOA HAS SYSTEMATICALLY REFUSED TO "CLEAR" PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES AND NUMEROUS PROPOSED ALTERNATES. WE BELIEVE GOA RESISTANCE COMES FROM HIGH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WHO OBJECT TO "FOREIGNERS" DECIDING WHO TRAVELS OVERSEAS, PLUS HOPE OF SOME OFFICIALS THAT U.S. MAY ALLOW THE IVP PROGRAM TO BE USED IN SOME CASES BY AFGHANS TO PAY OFF FAVORS, EITHER FAMILY OR PERSONAL, GOA OFFICIAL POSITION IS THAT OVERSEAS TRAVEL GRANTS SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO AFGHAN AUTHORITIES TO PICK CANDIDATES AND THAT WE SHOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE CHOICE. OBVIOUSLY WE FIND THIS POSITION UNACCEPTABLE.

3. OUR POSTION WITH GOA ON IVP HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND HAS BEEN SO STATED IN ALL LEVELS WITH MFA, THAT WE WELCOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 KABUL 02411 031357Z

GOA SUGGESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES, WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT

FINAL DECISION ON CANDIDATES AND SUBSEQUENT INVITATIONS
MUST REMAIN OURS.

4. CURRENT STATUS: THE IV COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL U.S. MISSION ELEMENTS, HAS PLACED TWO OUT OF FIVE IV GRANTS FOR FY 76. IN ADDITION TO FUNDS FOR THE SPECIAL VISIT LATER THIS YEAR, WE THEREFORE HAVE THREE UNEXPENDED GRANTS.

5. COUNTRY TEAM'S IV COMMITTEE UNWILLING SUBSTITUTE MULTI-REGIONAL (MR) GRANTS FOR IV IN THIS FISCAL YEAR BECAUSE GIVING GOA OPTION TO NAME CANDIDATES WOULD VITIATE THE EFFORT WE HAVE MADE TO UNDERLINE TO GOA THE PRINCIPLES THAT LIE BEHIND IV PROGRAM IN HOPE IT WILL LEAD TO MORE REALISTIC AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE ON THEIR PART. THEREFORE, WE HAVE INFORMED GOA THAT SINCE WE HAVE HAD NO APPROVALS BY MARCH 31, 1976 (PREVIOUSLY HAD TOLD THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THIS WAS A FINAL DEADLINE), WE ARE TERMINATING THE IV PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR.

6. ACTION PROPOSED AND REQUESTED: RATHER THAN GIVE UP UNCOMMITTED FY 76 FUNDS ALLOCATED TO IV, WE PROPOSE SHIFT FUNDS TO INTER-COUNTRY EXCHANGES IN AREAS OF BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES, AMERICAN STUDIES, AND PROGRAMS TO BROADEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. ELECTORAL PROCESSES, PLUS T/O GRANTS ON POST-GRAD. LEVEL.

7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR REPROGRAMMING AS WELL AS CU ADVICE ON OTHER WAYS TO CREATIVELY REPROGRAM UNCOMMITTED FY 76 CU FUNDS.

8. ALSO, WE ARE WORKING ON OUR FY 77 PROGRAM PROPOSAL, IN WHICH WE PLAN TO CHANGE PROGRAM MIX IN ORDER REDUCE IV GRANTS, SHIFTING SOME RESOURCES INTO OTHER CATEGORIES, INCLUDING MR GRANTS.

9. WE ARE ASSUMING, BASED ON DCM AND PAO DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH NEWBERRY/WHELLOCK/PARKER, THAT UNLESS THERE IS A DRASTIC WORLD-WIDE CULTURAL EXCHANGE BUDGET REDUCTION, THE FY 77 CU FUNDING LEVEL IN AFGHANISTAN WILL NOT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KABUL 02411 031357Z

AFFECTED.

10. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS.
ELIOT

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